

HOLOCOST AT A VIRGINIA RESORT.

Hot Springs, Va., Special.—On March 29th, about 9.30 p. m., a serious fire broke out about one mile from the waiter's quarters. Most of the men were coming from the Hotel to their quarters, when the flames flashed off highest. As one man they rushed to the scene of destruction, working as though the safety of the whole community depended upon them and succeeded in saving the houses that would have been destroyed without their aid. Among the first men on the scene was R. N. Smith and several of his officers. One house was totally destroyed, one injured, two saved. Two of the saved houses belonged to a white man, the other one to R. N. Smith. It is occupied by Dr. Pannel, the second waiter.

Two persons were so seriously burned that they have since died; an old lady, (colored,) 70; and a child 8 years old, respectively. Mariah Clark, the daughter of the old lady, says that through the kindness of the guests of the Hotel, and the waiters, she is relieved of the entire expenses of doctor's bill and burial of the deceased. Clay Lewellen, and Gussie Lewellen, were the names respectively of the departed ones.

There are about 136 waiters here offered by R. N. Smith, head; S. D. Pannell, second; and A. E. Banks, third. J. H. Gater, head in the ordinary, and A. H. Preston, head private man.

Many of the men who work with Mr. Smith continually, have imbibed his spirit and thrift; for he never lectures to his men without advising them to be sober, obtaining from bad habits, save their money and buy homes, or educate themselves and become men of some worth.

Dr. Pannel has been with Mr. Smith for several years and from his manner of life it is fair to presume that he is comfortably fixed. Mr. Banks, has been for several years head-waiter at the Hygia, at Old Point Comfort and the Jefferson, at Richmond, Va. He is a modest gentleman, and unsupercilious among the men. J. H. Gater, is a young man of great promise; he supports his mother and saves his means. A. H. Preston, has a family of five, two girls, a boy, himself and wife. He has a home at Finycastle. He sends his children to school in winter and finds them employment at Hot Springs in the summer.

Amusements: Cake walks are given for the amusement of the guests of the hotel for which they usually obtain a fair compensation, by donations. Dances are given by first one club of young gentlemen and then another, in the Waiter's Club Room. The Literary Society furnishes both amusement and mental food for all. Strang as it may seem, R. N. Smith, who has such grave responsibilities and various interests at stake is, nevertheless, a leading light in everything that promotes the pleasure and intellectual well being of his employees.

Easter Services: Smith Memorial Chapel was beautifully decorated with flowers; the ladies in their lovely costumes added much to the attractiveness. Rev. Hackett, of Covington, Va., preached in the afternoon from Matt. 28 chapter, 5th verse. He fed his audience as it becomes a man of God. In the evening he gave us an interesting talk on "Reading," drawing his remarks from 1st St. Tim. 4-15 verses. After the evening services, Dr. Johnson, of Covington, Va., interested the audience by some telling remarks on economy.

The following ladies and gentlemen participated in the program: Miss S. Childs, of Stanton, Va., Virginia Mulone, of Stanton, Va., the Misses Lewies, Stanton, Va., Mr. J. T. B. Arciter, Mr. Mitchell, N. Y., Mr. A. C. Burwell, Va.

Among the subscribers for the American are the following: Mrs. Susie Stephenson, Lynchburg, Va., Mr. Whitaker Shawview, Raleigh, N. C., Geo. Watkins, Richmond, Va., Bobt. Stephenson, D. C., J. E. Lewis, Scottsville, Va., Geo. H. Fordham, S. C., Thomas H. Bryant, Lynchburg, Va., E. H. Tucker, Bagatsu, Va., W. M.

Johnson, N. Y., Mariah Clark, Cliftonforge, Va., Mr. James Miller, D. C., and others. All of these persons find pleasure in reading The Colored American.

Addendum: Mr. N. F. Berry, of Lynchburg, Va., has been secretary for R. N. Smith for six years. Mr. Smith says that he is proficient in every sense of that word. He looks after the pay roll of the men and keeps all the accounts of payments and charges. He saves his own money and is said to own a home at Lynchburg, Va. The business of the house has become so improved that Mr. Smith has been compelled to employ an assistant secretary in the person of Mr. James Heiskill, of Charlottesville, Va. He is a young man of great promise; for he is moderate in his life about the Springs.

THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.

A letter from Dr. Jordan, secretary of the Baptist Foreign Mission Board, dated April 25, says: "Our rally is not what we hoped and yet, returns are still coming in. 19th St., Church, of your city, Dr. Brooks, pastor, leads with \$50.43, with Tulane ave., of New Orleans, Rev. Simms, pastor, second, with \$30. Second Baptist Sunday School, Springfield, O., Mr. C. D. Swayne, supt., \$27.00, Jerusalem Association, per Rev. A. B. Welch, Moderator, Gainesville, Fla., Gilfield, Petersburg, Va., Dr. Howard, pastor, \$23.00. Many struggling little churches and schools are helping at great sacrifice. Our missionaries and Board are grateful to every one of them. Of the 16440 Negro Baptist churches, only 360 have responded so far. Rev. C. P. Rier, of Surinam, South America, is now in this country, begging help for his work there. My Board is powerless to do efficient work, because of the niggardly way, the pastors and churches treat the claims of God and their heathen brethren.

We greatly regret the discouraged tone of Dr. Jordan's letter. What has become of Baptist valor and loyalty? What about the "Old Land Marks"? Is it lost? Our Baptist brethren should take up a collection for Foreign Missions, if only \$1.00, and send to 718 W. Walnut St. Louisville, Ky.

THE AMPHIONS SING IN BALTIMORE.

A quartette of the Amphion Glee Club, Prof. J. Henry Lewis, director, gave a concert in Calvary Baptist church, Baltimore, Md., Tuesday evening, April 21, assisted by Miss S. L. Hackett, elocutionist, Mr. W. D. Owens, violinist, and Prof. H. Y. Johnson, accompanist. The entertainment was given for the benefit of the Young Men's Christian Association of that city and a large sum was realized. It was also very successful from an artistic standpoint, and the full quota of membership of the Amphions have been engaged for a return engagement next fall. The entertainment was given under the management of Mr. P. A. Coines, the general secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association.

ANNUAL BANQUET AND SHAD BAKE.

The Capital Pleasure Club gave its annual banquet and shad bake Friday at Lake View Park. J. W. Evans presided and W. G. Robinson, of West Virginia, acted as toastmaster. Speeches were made by Recorder of Deeds, J. C. Dancy, Attorney T. L. Jones, Messrs. H. Johnson, W. Montague G. Fletcher, T. Barton, L. A. Niles, J. Askins, G. Wilkerson, C. Curtis, and W. J. Smith. Among the guests were: Dr. Warner, Charles Day, R. Green, W. Welborn, C. Molen R. Colburn, L. L. Jones, C. Beavan, F. Douglas, T. Colbert, B. Edlein. The club is composed of employees of the House of Representatives. The Committee of arrangements were J. E. Dent, R. Coates, J. Williams, H. Neal, A. Lucas, C. Christian, W. Hawkins, J. Savoy, C. Johnson, and E. Thomas.

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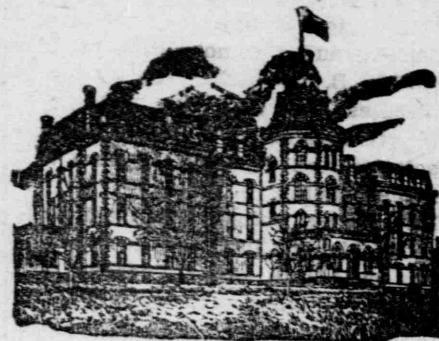
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